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Conference

Beyond Mosque, Church, and State: Negotiating Religious and Ethno-National Identities in the Balkans

Thursday-Saturday, October 6-8, 2011
Lockheed Martin Boardroom and Lounge Library
John Glenn School of Public Affairs
1810 College Road, Columbus, OH 43201

Visit the [official conference webpage](#)

Organizers

Theodora Dragostinova, Department of History
Yana Hashamova, Department of Slavic and East European Languages
and Literatures

Overview

Ethnic diversity and national tensions in the Balkans have long attracted the attention of the international community of scholars and policy-makers who have tried to understand how states, societies and people in the area negotiate complex religious and ethno-national identities.

Bulgaria and Bosnia exemplify two fascinating case studies of these issues of ethnic diversity and national conflict. The two countries share a similar history of strained transitions from empires to nation-states to communist internationalism and back to nationalism.

However, after the fall of communism in 1989, the two states followed diverging paths; while Bosnia underwent a violent process of civil war accompanied with ethnic cleansing, Bulgaria maintained relative ethnic peace, religious tolerance, and political stability. The ultimate purpose of this conference is to debate how and why two similar states and societies experienced comparable challenges of ethnic complexity, political conflict, and national reconciliation differently.

Program

Thursday, October 6, 2011



Theodora Dragostinova
Assistant Professor of
History
The Ohio State University



Yana Hashamova
Associate Professor of
Slavic and East European
Languages and Literatures
The Ohio State University

4:00-4:30 p.m. -- Check-in and registration at the Glenn School

4:30-6 p.m. -- Opening remarks (TBA) and Session I: Beyond Mosque, Church, and State

Moderator: Theodora Dragostinova, The Ohio State University

Victor Friedman, University of Chicago

E mos shikjoni kish e xhamija (And look not to church and mosque):

How Albania and Macedonia Illuminate Bosnia and Bulgaria

Yana Hashamova, The Ohio State University

Women between State and Mosque: Compliance or Agency

6:30-8:30 p.m. -- Reception at the Faculty Club

Friday, October 7, 2011

9-9:30 a.m. -- Coffee and breakfast

9:30-11:30 a.m. -- Session II: The Ottoman Legacy in the Balkans -

Moderator: Jane Hathaway, The Ohio State University

Nikolay Antov, University of Arkansas

Emergence and Historical Development of Muslim Communities in the Ottoman Balkans: Turcoman Colonization, Conversion to Islam and the "Indigenization of Islam" in the Balkan Peninsula (late 14th - 18th cc.)

Snjezana Buzov, The Ohio State University

Conversion to Islam and Islamicization in Bulgaria and Bosnia:

Similarities and Differences

Ipek Yosmaoglu, Northwestern University

Transitions to Nationhood in Ottoman Macedonia, 1878-1912

11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. -- Lunch break (box lunch provided) and campus tour/free time

1:30-3:30 p.m. -- Session III: Ideas of Nationhood in Bosnia

Moderator: Gregory Jusdanis, The Ohio State University

Robert Donia, University of Michigan

The Historical Development of a Bosniak National Identity

Max Bergfolz, Concordia University, Canada

When Nationhood Suddenly Happens: The Micro Dynamics of Inter-Communal Relations in Post-World War II Bosnia-Herzegovina

Edin Hajdarpasic, Loyola University- Chicago

Constituent Parts: Accounting for Nationhood, History, and the "Unaccounted for" in Modern Bosnia-Herzegovina

3:30-4 p.m. -- Coffee break

4-6 p.m. -- Session IV: National Dilemmas in Bulgaria

Moderator: Tatyana Nestorova, The Ohio State University

Theodora Dragostinova, The Ohio State University

In Search of the Bulgarians: Mapping the Nation through National Classifications

Mary Neuburger, University of Texas-Austin

Tobacco Dependencies?: Bulgarian-Muslim Relations under Communism in the Shadow of Bulgartabak

Irina Gigova, College of Charleston

Negotiating National and Cosmopolitan Impulses in Socialist Bulgaria:

Bulgarian Writers in Texts and Actions

6:30-8:30 p.m. -- Catered dinner at the Glenn School

Saturday, October 8, 2011

9-9:30 a.m. -- Coffee and breakfast

9:30-11:30 a.m. -- Session V: Postsocialist Discourses and Debates

Moderator: Jennifer Suchland, The Ohio State University

Donna A. Buchanan, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

Beyond Nation? A Thrice-Told Tale from Bulgaria's Postsocialist Soundstage

Jelena Subotic, Georgia State University

Stories States Tell: Identity, Narrative, and Human Rights in the Balkans

Kristen Ghodsee, Bowdoin College

Secularism and Church-State Symphony: Religious Freedoms, Eastern Orthodoxy and the application of Western conceptions of Human Rights in Postsocialist Bulgaria

11:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m. -- Lunch break (box lunch provided)

12:15-3 p.m. -- Session VI: Postsocialist Conflicts and Identities

Moderator: Yana Hashamova, The Ohio State University

Maria Popova, McGill University

Who supports Ataka? Analysis of individual level support for Bulgaria's radical nationalists

Simeon Mitropolitski, University of Montreal

One trigger - two outcomes: The role of the EU integration in boosting and eroding the ethno-national identities in the Balkans; the cases of Bulgaria and (F.Y.R. of) Macedonia

1:15-1:30 p.m.-- Coffee break

Paula M. Pickering, College of William and Mary

Local governing institutions in Bosnia: prioritizing local concerns over ethno-national identity?

John Quigley, The Ohio State University

The Efficacy of International Criminal Prosecution in the Aftermath of Inter-ethnic Conflict

2:30-3 p.m. -- Roundtable discussion and concluding remarks

Participants

Nikolay Antov, [University of Arkansas](#)

Max Bergholz, [Concordia University](#)

Donna Buchanan, [University of Illinois](#)

Snjezana Buzov, [The Ohio State University](#)

Robert Donia, [University of Michigan](#)

Victor Friedman, [University of Chicago](#)

Irina Gigova, [College of Charleston](#)

Kristen Ghodsee, [Bowdoin College](#)

Edin Hajdarpasic, [Loyola University-Chicago](#)

Simeon Mitropolitski, [University of Montreal](#)

Mary C. Neuburger, [University of Texas](#)

Paula M. Pickering, [College of William and Mary](#)

Maria Popova, [McGill University](#)
John Quigley, [The Ohio State University](#)
Jelena Subotic, [Georgia State University](#)
Ipek Kocaomer Yosmaoglu, [Northwestern University](#)

See the [conference abstracts](#).

Sponsors

Co-sponsors of this conference include the [Mershon Center for International Security Studies](#), Humanities Division of the [College of Arts and Sciences](#), [Center for Slavic and East European Studies](#), Paissii Fund - [Department of Slavic and East European Languages and Literatures](#), [John Glenn School of Public Affairs](#), and [Department of History](#).

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